MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

GRADUATE SEMINARS ARCH504

2022-2023 FALL SEMESTER
JANUARY 23, 2023 │ 12.00 - 18.00 │ @KUBBEALTI

Coordinators: Ela Alanyalı Aral, Elif Gökçen Tepekaya

Meeting ID: 917 0168 7460
Passcode: 171738

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January 23rd, 2023

hybrid at Kubbealtı and via Zoom

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https://zoom.us/j/91701687460?pwd=ZzIzU2VsU3Fna040N2xh

12.05 – 12.30
Ertuğ Erpek— Unfolding the Oblique Architecture's Trajectory and Archaeologies

Supervisor: Esin Kömez Dağlıoğlu
Jury: Ayşen Savaş Sargın, Başak Uçar

In the 20th century, Post-Modernism engendered an emancipatory medium, where multiple lines of thought reinterpret the accepted notions of modern architecture a fortiori, mooting unconventional and marginal discussions. Within that period, many paradigms consolidated a critical position against the prevailing Modernism, prompting sundry idiosyncrasies in urban and architectural discourse. Among these, a latent and aberrant approach, the oblique function theory by Claude Parent and Paul Virilio under Architecture Principe Group, emerged and immanently developed between 1963-1968, promoted an understanding that critically built upon Modernism and Modernity, reproaching their rational coercion to extrapolate a new lexicon. Regarding the zeitgeist, they offered a third urban order on the oblique as a dissent to the horizontal pre-industrial and the vertical industrial urban architectures, asserting that the modern complexities of urban and architectural conditions warrant a distinguished scheme. According to them, a novel third urban order would excel the mobile and active life through the multiplication of usable spaces by intermediating the elevation of the vertical and the permanent horizontal plane, blurring the clear-cut barriers of Euclidean space. Rather than solely utilizing the two fundamental directions, Architecture Principe promotes the recognition of all the directions through the inclined variations, fractured forms, and fluid compositions, fostering a polyvalence spatiality. The oblique function theory is prescient for many subsequent architectural styles, mainly Deconstructivism and The Fold, with these overarching principles. Unfortunately, the connection between the theory and contemporary architecture remains obscured because of its influence's sporadic and sclerotic trajectory. Many omit the theory's presence, not overtly illuminating how it stems from a critique of Modernism, evolves into a theory, and inspires following approaches by its fundamental tenets. Therefore, the research mainly aims to unfold the 'oblique' trajectory and elucidate how its discourse could espouse contemporary architectural theory. It seeks an enriched urban and architectural reformulation of the oblique function theory to be elicited with a reconstruction of a continuous oblique timeline and interwoven oblique network through archival documents, which would significantly contribute to the acknowledgment of how the oblique acted as a springboard for following architectural styles.

12.30 – 12.55
Hazal Özkan— A Study on the Transformation of Visual Culture and Representation Modes in Urban Design Competitions

Supervisor: Esin Kömez Dağlıoğlu
Co-advisor: Olgu Çalışkan
Jury: Funda Baş Bütüner, Cansu Canaran

The way urban design has been represented and communicated to the public has undergone an extremely significant change over the past few years. Traditional forms of representation, such as hand drawings and physical models, once dominated the field of representation, but digital representation has become the norm as well. Moreover, changes in climatic and environmental conditions in the new era demanded an expansion of conventional interpretation of architectural and urban design scopes and a deviation from conventional representation methods. In this context, the way spatial practitioners such as architects, urban designers, and landscape architects understand and produce design began to change with evolving visual culture. This sparked the use of a reimagined visual language. This shift can be seen in the use of 3D renderings, virtual reality simulations, and other digital tools in urban design competitions. Using these updated forms of representation, the proposed design is visualized with a level of detail and immersion previously unattainable through conventional methods. Urban design competitions provide the best opportunity to observe this change, which can combine different disciplines, layers, concerns, and scales. With the escalation of urban design competitions in Turkey in the recent past, we have witnessed a major shift in the emphasis on environmental factors as well as a dramatic shift in the discourse. However, the transformation of visual culture in urban design has also raised questions about the impact of these changes on the perception and evaluation of design proposals. This study aims to explore these issues by analysing the use of different representation modes to understand and discuss the expanded field of visual language and representation through urban design competitions held in Turkey in the last two decades. In this time interval, the change in representation was examined through two selected projects: Diyarbakır Dicle Valley Landscape Planning Urban Design and

Architectural Project Competition (2006) and Meles Stream as Urban and Ecological Backbone National Urban Design Idea Project Competition (2020). These competition projects are detailed using the competition specifications, jury reports, submitted visuals and posters. Through this analysis, the study aims to provide insights into the current state and future direction of visual culture with the effects of the Anthropocene era in the field of urban design.

12.55– 13.20
Dilara Yaraş Er— Impacts of Gold Mining Activities on Rural Landscape: The Transformation of Ovacık Village and Its Environs by Socio-Spatial Forces
Supervisor: Funda Baş Bütüner
Co-advisor: Güven Arif Sargın
Jury: Olgu Çalışkan, Gizem Deniz Güneri Söğüt

The aim of this thesis is to examine social and natural phenomena in order to understand the socio-spatial transformation in the rural landscape of Ovacık and its environs with the initiation of mining activities, and to create a foresight about the condition of the landscape after the cessation of the mine. Ovacık, a village located between Bergama and Dikili in İzmir, became a mining landscape after a transnational company, Eurogold, received countrywide permission and licenses to prospect for gold and silver, and constructed a gold mine in the village. As the main operation field of the extractive industries is the landscape itself, mining causes constant transformation of landscape with tangible, spatial, and environmental alterations, while triggering dramatic sociocultural transformations. Herein, post-mining landscape strategies appear as a critical reclamation process to envision the future of mining sites. Thus, besides mapping the devastated cultural and natural landscape of the mining landscapes, this research aims to discuss the future potentials of the post-mining landscape legacy through Ovacık. Since the preservation of the value of the cultural landscape created as the result of mining activities has a critical place in reclamation processes, the evaluation of the potential of the post-mining landscape in Ovacık as a cultural heritage is one of the constituents of this dissertation. Finally, by pushing the verges of the case, this study intends to develop strategies for the mining and post-mining sites in Turkey by framing Ovacık as a noteworthy countrywide precedent.

13.20– 13.45
Sena Baran— Reproduction of Dominant Ideology in Architectural Milieu Through Local Media - The Case Ankapark, Ankara
Supervisor: Güven Arif Sargın
Jury: Olgu Çalışkan, İnci Basa

This thesis is a critical inquiry into situation of increasing discrediting and commodification of contemporary architecture to serve the interests of dominant ideologies through examination of themed structuring processes that ignored the identity and values of Ankara, the capital of the Republic, by a certain political subject who was in the administration between 1994-2017. As a result of this study, it is expected to reveal how dominant ideologies and their social actors manufacture the consent of society by controlling the local media and how they reproduce the instruments of the dominant ideologies in architectural culture. In this sense, the process of obtaining the consent of the public for the Ankapark project, which has been quite controversial and clearly not in the public interest, by the dominant powers of the mentioned era through the local media will be examined, economical interests and dynamics in the background of the project will be deciphered within the scope of large-scale urban projects, which is one of the important implementation tools of neoliberal urbanization policies and which intervenes in economic, social and cultural areas as well as urban space.

13.45– 14.10
Elif Nur Bek— 2038 Environmental Plan: Property, Commodity, and Abstract Space Into Ghost Urbanization of Ankara
Supervisor: Güven Arif Sargın
Jury: Ayşen Savaş Sargın, Aktan Acar

This research will examine the context of Ankara within the framework of the decisions taken in line with the 2038 Ankara Environmental Plan. With that examination, the production mode of the modern city will be deciphered by using the abstraction method over the relations of rent, property and commodity. Concept of "abstract space" in production of space will be discussed in the context of spatial conceptual analysis of the plan regarding the homogenization of the land. While doing this, alongside with the conceptual aspect of the issue, it will be mentioned how the administrative powers in the context of Ankara, exhibited policies based on the understanding of profit and rent in environmental planning, and how these policies were reflected in the production mode of the city. In this context, ghost cities, which are a global problematic, are also an output of this city production mode as a warning. As the land transformed by Capitalism makes sense only on the basis of plots and parcels, and production of the city changes accordingly.

Metropoles emerge as territories that have lost or change their value in the spatial context and result as ghost towns. Likewise in the case of 2038 Ankara Environmental Plan, where a similar situation is observed and occurred, will be deciphered by suggesting a new interrelated concept as "ghost urbanization". For this process, as a main source for understanding the production of a Metropol through Ankara, the cellular mode of production of Capitalism built over Metropoles will be discussed to be held as a methodic tool.

14.10– 14.35
Kemal Yılmaz— The Transformation of Architectural Education under Neoliberalism: Institutionalisation of Precariatization of Architectural Labor in Turkey since 2003

Supervisor: Güven Arif Sargın
Jury: Ayşen Savaş Sargın, Tonguç Akış

Marx holds that capitalist accumulation necessarily leads to the expansion of a surplus labor force, but that the surplus labor force also aids capitalist accumulation, partially by keeping wages down. He divides the surplus labor force, also known as the reserve army of labor. In line with neoliberal policies, the economic policy instruments affecting the labor market in Turkey since the 2000s have
been liquidated; distribution relations began to deteriorate more and more against labor. With the privatization of education services, education, high schools and universities become profit institutions. Universities are developing 'entrepreneurial university' models due to compatibility with the market mechanism, and in parallel, the labor process is reorganized in accordance with these models. Although the term "Reserve Army of Labor" has a definition that is inherent to capitalism, in the neoliberal era, both its quality and quantity have

improved in the labor market. For the precarious architect subject, it has been an important element in the precarization of architects' labor over the past 20 years, particularly within the architectural profession. In this thesis, the qualitative and quantitative transformation of architectural education will be examined in parallel with Turkey's integration into the neoliberal system as of 2003; more specifically, the role of foundation universities in this transformation will be tried to be revealed.

14.35 – 15.00
Büşra Aşçı— Architecture as A Source of Pleasure
Supervisor: Haluk Zelef
Jury: Belgin Turan Özkaya, Esin Kömez

The discipline of architecture has been associated with many different disciplines throughout history and has developed through this interaction, in this context, architecture can be considered not only as a production of rational and systematic thought but also as a synthesis of intellectual thought and various philosophical approaches. One of these different thought systems affecting the theory of architecture is hedonism, which is closely related to both philosophies of art and the development of architecture. Because this philosophy, which is associated with pleasure and pain has opened doors to new approaches and created turning points in architecture in different periods of history, as will be examined in depth in the content of the study. This approach, which argues that humankind shapes his environment and social relations with the impulses towards the feelings of pleasure and pain he or she experiences, added a different perspective and way of thinking to the architectural approach of the architects and theorists it influenced and created several concepts that we still talk about today. For this reason, in this article, the concept of hedonism will be

discussed with all its layers to reveal these mentioned concepts and approaches, their effects on architectural theory, and their results. Through the relation of hedonism with the philosophy of aesthetics, it will be examined with what criteria the discipline of architecture was put forward in the first curtains of history or it will be investigated how hedonism, which comes to the fore with different social events, inspires architects who seek answers to social problems. The ideas that emerged in different periods will be examined in their contexts and the relationship between architecture and hedonism will be elaborated to reconsider the human who is the subject of architecture and architectural space in a new context.

15.00– 15.25
Cansu Sicimli— Spatial dynamics of moving images: A reading on the examples of expanded cinema in Turkey.

Supervisor: Haluk Zelef
Jury: Celal Abdi Güzer, Ekin Pınar
The disciplines of architecture and cinema are inextricably linked and influence each other, mainly when architecture functions as an enclosure for cinema. The spatial aspects of the space always have been a significant element of the experience of the film. Around the 1950s and 1960s, artists and filmmakers challenged the cinema's spatiality. Even though cinema was conventionally displayed in the movie theatre, museums, art galleries, and open-air have become new possible sites for projecting moving images. Artists have produced 'expanded cinema' artworks which are film, video, or multimedia works displayed beyond the movie theatre. Thus, many forms of dialogue emerged between the artworks, the space, and the spectators. They challenged the conventions of art spectatorship and created different relations to time and space. Within the current literature, architecture itself is not the focus of the

studies regarding expanded cinema artworks. Also, there is insufficient research on how moving images were embraced by the artist in Turkey and how the spaces adapt themselves to exhibit cinema. Thus, the thesis will mainly concentrate on the spatial dynamics of the expanded cinema artworks created in Turkey. Multiple cases will be analyzed according to the representations (photographs, videos, virtual tours, explanations of the artists/art critics) of the artworks if they are no longer on display. The main focus of the thesis will be how these artworks engage with the spectators and the spaces they inhabit.

15.25– 15.50
Recep Selim Yarbaşı— Participatory Design In Affordable Housings: Comparative Review of B.V. Doshi and Alejandro Aravena
                    Supervisor: Cânâ Bilsel
            Jury: Aydan Balamir, Selahattin Önür

Due to the rapid population growth and ongoing urbanization in the world, there has been a remarkable increase in the housing stock recently, and social or affordable housing inevitably constitutes an important part of this. However, although they seriously affect the architecture and urban fabric of cities, most of these housing implementations consider merely the basic needs of people, by reducing a user group to simple parameters. They mostly consist of standardized, high- rise blocks, alien to the physical and social context in which they are located. This leads people who live in these mass housing areas to lose their sense of place, sense of belonging and alienate from their environment, which is a problem to obtain a socially sustainable environment. However, there are some remarkable architectural examples that have become successful alternatives to these standardized housing

productions. In this context, two Pritzker award- winning architects, Balkrishna Doshi and Alejandro Aravena, known with their inclusive housing designs for low- income people, come to the fore. In this study, the approaches and projects of the two architects - one from India and the other from Chile- will be analyzed comparatively with regard to their roles in housing solutions for the low-income people, their inclusive design approaches that embrace the inhabitants, consider their needs, contribute to their well-being and enable their interventions. The architects' role as mediator in the implementation process of the projects, their architectural and ssocial discourses will be discussed with examples from their implemented projects.

15.50 – 16.15
Muhammad Hasan Daniyal— Pathways of least Resistance: The case for Islamabad's waterways as a means of regenerative design for the city.

                    Supervisor: Cânâ Bilsel
        Jury: Funda Baş Bütüner, Didem Dizdaroglu

The capital city of Pakistan, Islamabad is a contemporary planned city based on a strict square grid superimposed over the rain fed plateau of the Potohar region in the foothills of the the Margalla Hills. The natural seasonal waterways originating in these hills, as well as the pockets of natural forests are envisioned as a part of the city's natural infrastructure, essential for maintaining quality of life. However, these waterways passing through the city as a means of connection of the citizens with the natural environment, have become open-air sewerage drains due to the urban growth deviating from the original master plan of post 1970's in the absence of a revised master plan. Additionally, urban encroachment and poor waste management has also led to these

streams flooding in every monsoon season, depositing debris and waste within the city, necessitating an approach in planning which would remedy the current issues and provide a sustainable pathway into the future of the city. The study aims to superimpose a new infrastructural landscape within these pocket spaces in Islamabad, using the seasonal streams as a means to generate infrastructural landscapes which would aid the development of a framework for a new form of connective infrastructure within the city. As a study into the development of techniques and methods, a two-kilometer patch of one of the streams will be taken as the subject area with the new strategies being hypothesized to resolve the issues of the space in context to the project intent. The study area is chosen because it offers a variety of urban settings, which would be beneficial for the purposes of this research in providing an infrastructure of linkage between different urban settings, while making the stream and its surrounding environment a primary player in the development of the infrastructure approach. This research seeks to find an alternate way to increase connectivity between various urban enclaves within the city. This approach of connectivity would be referred to as "networks of reconciliation" in this study.

16.15 – 16.40
Mohammed Najdat Yawer— The Ecological Role of Unoccupied Urban Lands in the Antropocene
                    Supervisor: Funda Baş Bütüner
            Jury: Ela Alanyalı Aral, Ebru Erbaş Gürler

Considering the ecological threats of the anthropocene era we are currently living in and the realities of the climate crisis, it is evident that the way in which we shape and treat the urban environment must be fundamentally reformulated and reoriented towards more ecologically conscious approaches. A

critical urban problem to investigate in this regard is the role and fate of unoccupied urban lands in this shift towards more ecological urban conceptions of the contemporary city. This paper aims to briefly introduce a theoretical framework for the concept of unoccupied lands, followed by several case studies that present a wide range of scales for urban inoccupancy and then provide a general overview of three of their major ecological potentials and the recent approaches in the literature surrounding them. Those being categorized as urban ecology, ecosystem services, and ecological testing grounds.

16.40 – 17.05
Ece Gören— Cohabitation as A Project for The City: Strategizing For An Urban Symbiosis
Supervisor: Funda Baş Bütüner
Jury: Mualla Erkılıç, Ebru Erbaş Gürler

As ecological strategies reach an increasingly impendent halting point and a new geological epoch is widely recognized in academia with the Antropocene, design and planning disciplines are seeking new ways to approach the field in light of the system-wide disruptions of humankind as a geologic force. Within this discourse, the notion of cohabitation emerges as a model for a holistic architectural attitude towards urban practices that positively construct rather than systematically despoil. To be able to construct cohabitation as a project for the city, the paper will begin by defining the term etymologically and conceptually, including prior originations of the evolution of the notion, to then be supported by rendering a succinct image of the term cohabitation and how it has been theorized in urban discourse. From this point on, two propositions are recognized for the project of designing cohabitation for the urban realm; the first hypothesis being, that human and architecture are not transcendent to, but entirely immanent to nature, and secondly, that cities are habitats, and the city is one modification of nature. The discussion is followed by the investigation of typologies and methodologies of cohabitation through varied case studies to be able to formulate a greater grasp on how this position translates to practice. The common objective of cohabitation produces a rethinking of human-nonhuman relations on a basis of equality of being and designs for solutions toward the possibility of a buzzing coexistence through and between planetary biodiversity. Architecture in this sense is transfigured as an agent of symbiotic relationships between the binaries that have long governed our dialectic.